



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY SUITE 202
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 11, 2007

Contact: Barbara Rater
(410) 841-5740

Dry Conditions Delayed Wheat Development

Dry conditions experienced earlier this spring delayed winter wheat development. According to the June 4, 2007 crop progress report, wheat was rated in mostly good conditions.

Maryland: The winter wheat crop in Maryland is expected to yield an average of 66 bushels per acre. The average yield is forecasted at two bushels per acre less than last year's average of 68 bushels per acre, but unchanged from the May 1 forecast. This average yield, combined with harvested acreage of 175,000 acres, translates to an overall production level of 11,500,000 bushels.

Delaware: The winter wheat crop in Delaware is expected to yield an average 68 bushels per acre, down 5 bushels from May 1 forecast. Dry conditions during the month of May have lowered the expectation for yield. According to the Crop Progress Report on June 4, 2007, the total precipitation ranged between 2" to 4" below normal in some parts of Delaware. However, the dry conditions and low humidity mean virtually no diseases have been observed.

United States: Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.61 billion bushels, down slightly from the May 1 forecast but 24 percent above 2006. Based on June 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 43.2 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from last month but 1.5 bushels more than last year. Grain area totals 37.2 million acres, up fractionally from May 1.

Winter Wheat

	Harvested (1,000 Acres)		Avg. Yield (Bu)		Production (1,000 Bu)	
	2006	2007 ¹	2006	2007 ¹	2006	2007 ¹
Maryland	125	175	68.0	66.0	8,500	11,550
Delaware	45	55	67.0	68.0	3,015	4,556
United States	31,117	37,222	41.7	43.2	1,298,081	1,609,679

¹ Forecast